

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12-16, 22, 23, 25, 27-30, 34, 45-47, 99-114 remain in the present application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 4, 8-11, 17-21, 24, 26, 31-33, 35-44, and 48-50 have been withdrawn. Claims 51-98 have been previously canceled.

Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Independent claims 1 and 101 have been amended to better define the invention. Specifically, claims 1 and 101 now recite the claim element "a fuel cell adapted to provide electricity for an electronic device." No question of new matter arises because support for this amendment can be found on page 1, line 8 to page 3, line 10, page 8, lines 18-19, page 10, lines 8-11, and page 17, lines 14-16 of the originally filed specification. This amendment clarifies that the present invention is directed towards fuel supplies for fuel cell systems that power consumer electronic devices with direct current electricity. On the other hand, neither Wong nor Lechner even relate to such fuel cell systems as generally understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

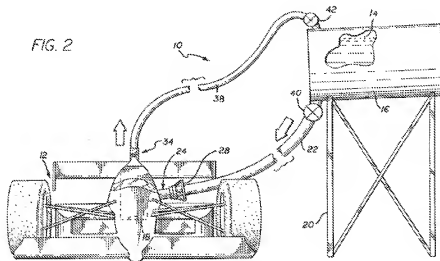
Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, 27-29, 46, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,634,505 to Wong. In addition, claims 1-3, 5-7, 12, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, 27-30, 34, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,911,194 to Lechner.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the claim element "a fuel cell adapted to provide electricity for an electronic device." This claim element is not found in either the Wong or Lechner references, which concern different technical fields. In Wong, the term "fuel cell" is synonymous with a "fuel tank" that stores gasoline for a race car engine. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 2 below from the Wong reference, the prior art concerns a refueling system 10 designed for faster and safer gravity flow drainage of fuel 14

from an elevated pitside fuel tank **16** to refill a fuel cell or tank **18** (shown schematically in dotted lines in FIG. 2) on race car **12**. Wong patent, column 4, lines 47-51.



Thus, in Wong, the term “fuel cell” is used to describe a gasoline storage device, and not equipment that generates electricity for an electronic device. Consequently, amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Wong. Other prior art references use the term “fuel cell” as a fuel tank, especially in the car racing art, *e.g.*, see U.S. 5,791,366 to Lo at col. 3, lines 62-63 and col. 4, lines 19-20.

With respect to the Lechner reference, the Examiner states that it “discloses a coupling used to supply fuel from a tank or container to a fuel cell adapted to provide electricity (gas grill), col. 1, lines 29-48.” The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The Lechner reference does not even mention the term “fuel cell” anywhere, and a reasonable person of ordinary skill in the art would not equate a gas grill with a fuel cell adapted to provide electricity for an electronic device. Thus, there is no valid comparison between the Lechner reference and Applicants’ amended claim 1.

Hence, claim 1 is not anticipated by either Wong or Lechner and is patentable over these references. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, 27-30, 34, 46, and 47 all depend upon allowable claim 1 and add further limitations thereto, and therefore are patentable for that

reason alone. Applicants reserve the right to further support the patentability of these dependent claims, should that become necessary.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 45 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lechner. Claims 13, 14, and 99-113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lechner in view of U.S. 6,135,150 to Powell *et al.* Claims 13, 14, and 99-113 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Powell *et al.* Claim 114 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lechner or Wong in view of U.S. 4,672,998 to Kojak, III.

For the reasons stated above in the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection discussion, neither Lechner nor Powell teach all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Because claims 13, 14, 45, 47, 99, and 100 depend upon allowable claim 1 and recite further limitations thereto, they cannot be rendered obvious by the cited prior art and are patentable for that reason alone. Applicants reserve the right to further support the patentability of these dependent claims, should that become necessary.

Independent claim 101 has been amended to recite a valve comprising a valve component connectable to “a fuel cell adapted to provide electricity for an electronic device.” As discussed in greater detail above, this claim element is not found in either the Wong or Lechner references, which concern different inventive fields, and thus there is no valid comparison between them and Applicants’ amended claim 101. Further, the Powell *et al.* reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Wong and Lechner references. Hence, claim 101 is not anticipated by the prior art and is patentable. Claims 102-114 all depend upon allowable claim 101 and add further limitations thereto, and therefore are patentable for that reason alone. Applicants reserve the right to further support the patentability of these dependent claims, should that become necessary.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Petition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the requisite one-month extension fee of \$120 are submitted herewith. If any additional extension of time is required, it is hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and if any other required fee is due, the Commissioner may charge appropriate fees to H.T. Than Law Group, Deposit Account No. 50-1980.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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